

Will the broadcast flag interfere with consumers ability to make copies of DTV content for their personal use, either on personal video recorders or removable media?

Yes, because unless there are high-quality hardware devices that allow consumers to copy for personal use despite the broadcast flag, there will be no way for consumers to copy for personal use at all, and therefore prevent fair use.

Would the digital flag interfere with consumers ability to send DTV content across networks, such as home digital networks connecting digital set top boxes, digital recorders, digital servers and digital display devices? Since almost all home networks work under the same protocols and devices as the Internet at large (in order to be cost efficient and re-use technologies, which is a good thing), if sending over the internet is prevented, then being able to send over home networks will also be prevented.

Would the broadcast flag requirement limit consumers ability to use their existing electronic equipment (equipment not built to look for the flag) or make it difficult to use older components with new equipment that is compliant with the broadcast flag standard?

If the broadcast flag proposal is created to prevent copying of content by devices that do not accept and de-code the broadcast flag, then yes, that would prevent copying by old devices, since they would not know how to understand and de-code the broadcast flag.

Would a broadcast flag requirement limit the development of future equipment providing consumers with new options?

I doubt it, no. As long as the broadcast flag specification is device-neutral enough, then it could be implemented into a wide array of technologies without trouble.

What will be the cost impact, if any, that a broadcast flag requirement would have on consumer electronics equipment?

It would increase the cost since the broadcast flag is one more thing that equipment and software producers must spend money on researching, understanding, and then implementing. This extra cost will be passed on to consumers, increasing the prices for those devices.

#### Other Comments:

One major problem with the broadcast flag proposal is that it would prevent the copying of content that the content creators intended to be completely open and unrestricted. The broadcast flag proposal prevents any copying for non-personal use, but this assumes that all content creators would want this restriction. Most college film departments create films to be freely distributed as not only a learning experience but also as promotional tools to potential film students. This broadcast flag proposal would prevent such unrestricted films, and force all content makers to restrict their work when they may not want to.